

[Sri R. Venkataraman] [11th November 1965]

commercial banks of loans up to 90 per cent of the value of cotton yarn and cloth as against 70 per cent now in force, advance by commercial banks on block account, postponement of collection of block loans obtained from banks and financial institutions, postponement of payment of electricity charges and condonation of delays in payment of provident fund contributions, issue of guarantee by the Government to Reserve Bank of India for a sum of Rs. 5 crores to enable finance being made available to the co-operatives to buy handloom cloth and stock the same and procurement of stocks of cotton yarn by the State society. The requests were examined by the Government. The following reliefs have been extended to the industry :—

(i) With a view not to hamper free trading in yarn, the voluntary price regulation scheme was withdrawn from 1st July 1965.

(ii) The Textile Commissioner has discontinued from the same date the voluntary yarn distribution scheme and the hank yarn obligation in respect of Nf. 50 and above.

(iii) The Reserve Bank of India has introduced as a temporary measure a scheme of special accommodation to Banks under the Bill market scheme for facilitating financial assistance to the textile mills which have fully utilised relative credit limits in their favour prevailing as on 1st October 1965 up to the limit of the value of two weeks' production of cloth and yarn. This special accommodation would be available for a period of three months.

(iv) Electricity dues have been deferred for a period of one month.

Six textile mills have so far applied for block loan facilities and they are being examined. The recent power cut imposed by Government had some salutary effect on the stock position of yarn by way of low production and reduction of existing stock. The accumulation of yarn is mostly with the weaker units and larger units with chain of dealers are not holding sizable stocks. Government feel that the accumulation of stocks will gradually thin down and there would be no closure of mills resulting in unemployment.

## (2) NON-AVAILABILITY OF BABY FOODSTUFFS

**SRI V. R. NEDUNCHEZHIAN :** Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Food to a matter of urgent public importance, namely the non-availability of baby foodstuffs in markets and the consequent sufferings of the people of our State.

**THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH :** Sir, as early as October 1964 it was brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue that infant and invalid foods were not available to bona fide consumers at reasonable rates in Madras City and that the entire stock found

11th November 1965] [Sri V. Ramaiah]

its way to the blackmarket. The Collector of Madras was consulted in the matter and the Collector recommended the imposition of an informal control of the distribution and sale of infant and invalid foods. The Board examined the position and recommended to Government that informal control on the distribution and sale of infant and invalid foods was necessary for ensuring adequate and regular supply at reasonable rates. The Government accepted the recommendation and introduced informal control over distribution and sale of infant and invalid foods in Madras City in the first instance, to be extended to other cities in the State at a later date.

Under the scheme of informal control introduced by the State Government, the dealers in baby food are required to execute an agreement and furnish a security of Rs. 50 with the Collector of Madras. The manufacturers and distributors have been asked to supply the goods to their dealers only after ascertaining from the Collector that the dealer has executed an agreement and remitted the security deposit. The products under control are Horlicks, Glaxo, Ovaltine, Ostermilk, Amul Baby food, Cow and Gate, Dumex, Lactogen, Lactodex and Nestomalt.

The dealers shall sell baby food only on production of family card, which has been issued by the State Government to enable a household to get its requirements of rice and wheat on the prescribed scale from fair price shops. The scale of issue of baby food is restricted to one bottle or tin of any one variety to a purchaser at a time and for a week. The following is the issue price to the consumer for each of the infant foods.

				RS. P.	
Horlicks (1 lb.)	..	..	..	5	50
Glaxo (450 grams)	..	..	..	5	10
„ (900 grams)	..	..	..	9	50
Ostermilk (900 grams)	..	..	..	9	50
Amul Baby Food (500 grams)	..	..	..	4	50
„ (1,000 grams)	..	..	..	8	50
Lactogen (500 grams)	..	..	..	5	65
Lactodex (450 grams)	..	..	..	6	60

It has since been noticed that the sale of baby food by the retailers simply on the basis of the production of a family card does not ensure restriction of distribution of baby food to bonafide consumers alone. It is quite easy for unscrupulous elements to gather a few family cards, purchase baby food from retailers and secrete it in the blackmarket. The distribution of baby food has come in for lot of adverse criticism in Madras City. It has therefore become necessary for the State Government to see that the distribution and issue of baby food on cards is done by selected dealers so that every item of baby food is distributed in accordance with permits. The Government have therefore issued necessary



[Sri V. Ramaiah] [11th November 1965]

orders in G.O. Ms. No. 156, Civil Supplies, dated 27th October 1965 introducing statutory control over distribution of baby food. The Collector of Madras has been requested to work out a scheme under which distribution will be made by the Rationing staff in Madras City in an orderly manner.

### (3) HARDSHIPS OF MATCH FACTORIES

**SRI M. S. SELVARAJAN :** Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, namely the hardship caused to the hand-made match factories, co-operative match societies and match workers in the State, especially in Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram districts, due to the accumulation of stocks resulting in closure of factories.

**THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN :** Sir, I wish to make the following statement.

There was a slump in the disposal of the products of the hand-made match factories in this State during July—October this year owing to poor offtake by the North Indian traders.

The position has, however, now greatly eased since the beginning of this month and there is now an active demand for matches. No difficulties are now being experienced in regard to the disposal of stocks either by the co-operative sector or by private hand-made match producers.

The small match producers can get over their marketing difficulties by forming themselves into co-operatives.

### IV.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

#### (1) THE MADRAS FOREST (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message from the Hon. Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

In accordance with Rule 133 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Forest (Amendment) Bill, 1964 (L.A. Bill No. 39 of 1964) as passed by the Council on the 8th November 1965 with the amendments set out in the Annexure and signed by me for the concurrence of the Assembly.

#### *Annexure.*

1. In the enacting formula, for the words 'Fifteenth Year', substitute the words 'Sixteenth Year'.
2. *Clause 1.*—In sub-clause (1) of clause 1, for the figures '1964', substitute the figures '1965'.
3. *Clause 3.*—In the Explanation proposed to be added by sub-clause (iii) of clause 3, for the words 'the property of landholders such as *Jemmies*, *Devaswoms* or holders of inam lands', substitute the words '*the property of jemmies or Devaswoms*'.
4. *Clause 4.*—For the heading to new section 40-B, substitute the heading '*Notice to claimants of timber collected under section 40-A*'.